



Campus Observer

October 14, 2009

A Newsletter for the Florida Tech Community

Vol. 10 Issue 10

Homecoming Set for Oct. 14–18

Celebrate Homecoming 2009, “Florida Tech: More Than Meets the Eye,” Oct. 14–18.

Special events, all week, include:

Oct. 14:

- Kick off/BBQ, Residence Quad
- Midnight Madness, Clemente Center

Oct. 15:

- Welcome Reception, Botanical Garden
- Caribbean Students Association Talent Show, Gleason Performing Arts Center

Oct. 16:

- College of Aeronautics’ Skurla Award Luncheon, John and Martha Hartley Room, Denius Student Center
- Open House Gallery presentation by Ruth Funk, “Coat Couture,” Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts

Oct. 17:

- Aviation Day and ROTC Day
- Homecoming Parade
- Alumni Association Banquet, John and Martha Hartley Room, Denius Student Center, \$40 individual, \$75 per couple, pay online

Oct. 18:

- Homecoming Golf Classic, Baytree National Golf Links, shotgun format, \$100 individual, \$350 foursome, \$60 student, pay online

For more event information, call Alumni Affairs at (321) 674-7190 or e-mail hrosskam@fit.edu or gopanthers@fit.edu. For aeronautics-related events, call (321) 674-7369 or e-mail rtenny@fit.edu. To view a complete schedule of events, visit <http://homecoming.fit.edu>.

**MORE THAN
MEETS THE
EYE**
Florida Tech
HOMECOMING 2009

Golden Anniversary Campaign Tops \$59 Million

The Golden Anniversary Campaign for Florida Tech has surpassed its \$50 million goal, raising \$59,465,000.37. The campaign, under way since 2004, benefits a range of areas—from scholarships to bricks and mortar facilities. Supporters celebrated the successful campaign conclusion, which officially ended Sept. 26, at a ball for donors held in the Clemente Center.

“The spirit of the Golden Anniversary Capital Campaign is inextricably woven into the fabric of who we are as researchers, scientists and educators,” said Florida Tech President Anthony J. Catanese. “We look to the horizon and see not only what is, but what could be.”

Contributions include a \$5 million grant by Harris Corporation Charitable Fund through the Community Foundation of Brevard to create the Harris Institute for Assured Information; a \$5 million gift to enhance business offerings and strengthen online education, given by Nathan M. Bisk, one of the nation’s leaders in continuing

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2009 President’s Award Winners Announced

Florida Institute of Technology President Anthony J. Catanese today announced the winners of the 2009 President’s Award for University Excellence. The annual award recognizes faculty and staff contributions to the life of the university beyond regular duties of employment. This year, nine faculty and staff members were so honored.

“Each winner has done something special to contribute to the life of the university,” Catanese said. “We appreciate all that they do to enhance our campus community.”

Award nominations are accepted as part of a collaborative process. Each winner receives a letter of congratulations from President Catanese and a cash award. This year’s winners are:

Randy Alford, International Programs; **Marc Baarmand**, physics and space sciences; **Mike Beckert**, Gleason Performing Arts Center; **Suzanne Clark**, facilities management; **Stephani Cuddie**, University Alliance; **Steve Cusick**, aeronautics; **Greg Peebles**, financial affairs; **Leslie Savoie**, institutional research; and **Jamie Younkin**, humanities.



Faculty and Staff News

Office of the President

President **Anthony J. Catanese** recently delivered opening remarks at the Florida-Taiwan Higher Education Conference held at Disney World, Lake Buena Vista. He and Provost **T. Dwayne McCay** also co-moderated sessions on joint research and publication, and student exchanges. They were also involved, with nine other Florida colleges and universities, in a memorandum of understanding signing with the Taiwan delegation, which represented Taiwan universities and educational foundations.

Nathan M. Bisk College of Business

A paper titled "Elements of effective learning: Study of face-to-face versus podcast lectures" by **Deborah Carstens**; **Veronica Giguere**, Academic Support Center; and **Joshua Quist** M.S. '06 will be published in the *Journal of Management & Engineering Integration*.

Contract Management Magazine has published a paper by **Shirley Becker** and **Donn Miller-Kermani** titled "Women-owned small businesses in government procurement." It appeared in the August 2009 issue.

College of Engineering

Florida Tech researchers have received National Science Foundation funding of \$181,126 to obtain a new parallel computer to replace a computer cluster that dates to 2001. Florida Tech will provide direct matching funds of more than \$77,000 to support the new computing effort. Collaborating faculty members from the College of Engineering and the College of Science are: **Mark Archambault**, mechanical and aerospace engineering; **Charles Bostater**, **Sen Chiao**, **Steven Jachec** and **Gary Zarillo**, marine and environmental systems; **Charles Fulton**, mathematical sciences; **Fred Ham**, electrical and computer engineering; **Jim Jones**, applied mathematics; and **Ke-Gang Wang** and **Ming Zhang**, physics and space sciences.

Sen Chiao has earned a \$221,000 grant from the Department of the Army, U.S. Army Research. The grant will fund his work on down-valley jets, or high-speed streams of air, in Owens Valley, Ca.

Jean-Paul Pinelli is on sabbatical this fall at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute at the University of Kyoto, Japan. He will be working on developing a risk model for vulnerability of Japanese infrastructure to typhoons.

College of Psychology and Liberal Arts

Judy Strother spoke to the Society for Women Engineers Sept. 8 about "Bridging the Communication Gap between Men and Women."

A review by **Robert Taylor** titled "Forging the wings of victory," on the book *Embry-Riddle at war: Aviation training during World War II* was published by H-Net Reviews.

A manuscript by **David Wilder** with psychology graduate students **Janelle Allison**, **Katie Nicholson**, **Elizabeth Abellon** and **Renee Saulnier** M.S. '08 was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. The manuscript describes two experiments in which the group evaluated a procedure to increase compliance among young children.

College of Science

Monica Baloga and **Kurt Winkelmann** have earned a National Science Foundation award of \$182,588 for a general chemistry laboratory curriculum. Their project is titled "Introducing research-inspired modules in the general chemistry lab curriculum."

Marcus Hohlmann was awarded \$229,000 in third-year grant funding from the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, Department of Homeland Security, for continued research on cargo inspection with muon tomography.

Doctoral student **Diana Miller** recently had a paper accepted for the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Her paper is "Bacterial origin recognition complexes direct assembly of higher order

DnaA oligomeric structures." Co-authors are **Julia Grimwade**, **Alan Leonard**, postdoc **Thu Betteridge** and doctoral students **Tania Rozgaja** and **Julien Torgue**.

Elsevier has selected the article "Silver nanoparticles: Green synthesis and their antimicrobial activities" as one of the Top 25 Hottest Article in the chemistry subject. Co-authors are **Virender Sharma**, postdoc **Ria Yngard** and graduate student **Yekaterina Lin**. The article was published in *Advances in Colloid and Interface Science*.

Niescja Turner traveled to Ambleside, England, in September for the High Speed Solar Wind Streams and Geospace Interactions Workshop. She made two presentations and chaired a session titled "Inner magnetosphere: radiation belts, ring current, and wave/particle interactions."

Kurt Winkelmann received a \$12,426 grant from the Florida Space Grant Consortium to create virtual lab experiments. This project will create two interactive, chemistry experiments based on NASA missions to Mars. Assisting him will be **Amanda Burns**, information technology.

A paper by **Shaohua Xu**, titled "Cross- β -sheet structure in amyloid fiber formation," was published in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*. Xu also received a second grant of \$50,000 for his research on the origin of Alzheimer's disease from the Community Foundation of Brevard.

Extended Studies Division

The Fort Lee Site recently held commencement ceremonies attended by **Bob Niebuhr**, dean of the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business. Graduates were Capt. **Thomas John Heilman**, who received the Major Mathew Earl Schram Endowed Fellowship, and **Dana W. Spiers**, an employee of the Defense Logistics Agency. Also participating was spring graduate **Yolanda Bowden**, Florida Tech Outstanding Student and employee of the Defense Commissary Agency.

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Sponsored Scholar

Since fall 2008 Florida Tech has sponsored a Young Adult of the Month Award at each Melbourne-Palm Bay Area Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast. In September, Anna Demuynck, a senior at Melbourne Central Catholic High School, was honored. She will receive a Florida Tech scholarship each of her four years if she chooses to attend the university.



From left: Senior Vice President for Advancement Ken Stackpole, Anna Demuynck and President Catanese

Chronic Inflammatory Diseases Study Receives \$850,000 NIH Grant

Joshua Rokach, chemistry professor and director of the university's Claude Pepper Institute, has been awarded a two-year research grant of \$850,000 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant, from the National Heart Lung Blood Institute, will allow Rokach to continue his studies on chronic inflammatory diseases.



Joshua Rokach

Rokach has received worldwide recognition for the first syntheses of major inflammatory mediators such as leukotrienes and lipoxins, which are responsible for allergies of the lung and nose. The availability of these synthetic mediators has opened the field to medical research in the areas of allergy and inflammation.

Among his accomplishments, Rokach was responsible for the development of the drug "Singulair," a leukotriene-D4 antagonist, used by millions of allergy sufferers for the relief of asthma and rhinitis symptoms.

September MVP



The September Most Valuable Panther was Nancy Cook, Evans Library instruction librarian.

To nominate a staff or faculty member for this award, send your letters to MVP Committee Chair Leslie Savoie at lsavoie@fit.edu.

Faculty and Staff News *Continued*

Redstone Arsenal Site Director Timothy White recently participated in a Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraising event. He raised \$1,001 representing the university.

Campus Calendar

Oct. 14–18

Homecoming 2009

Please see story on front page.

Oct. 16

Coat Couture

Ruth Funk, Florida Tech trustee and textile preservationist
4 p.m., Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts, free
For more information call extension 8313 or visit <http://textiles.fit.edu>

Oct. 17

Aviation Day

Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research
9 a.m.–4 p.m., free
For information, visit <http://aviation-day.com>

Oct. 18

Homecoming Golf Classic

Alumni event
8 a.m., Baytree National Golf Links
Entry fee of \$100/person, \$360/foursome, \$60/student
For information, call extension 7190

Oct. 22

Humanities Lecture Series

Tick or Treat? Class Conflict and Cattle Tick Eradication

Claire Strom, Rollins College
7 p.m., Hartley Room, Denius Student Center, free
For information, call extension 8082

Oct. 23

Astronomy and Astrophysics Public Lecture Series Lighten up on Lighting: Going Green in the Dark

Terry Oswalt, physics and space sciences
8 p.m., Olin Engineering Complex Auditorium, Room EC 118, free
Followed by roof-top star viewing
For information, call extension 7207 or visit www.fit.edu/aapls

Oct. 23

Harris Center for Science and Engineering Dedication

2 p.m.

Oct. 27

College of Aeronautics Lecture Turning Research into Reality: Validating a Complex Socio-technical System—Air Traffic Control

Nigel Makins, FAA Liaison
9 a.m., Gleason Performing Arts Center, free
For information, call extension 7631

Oct. 27

Scott Center for Autism Treatment Dedication
4 p.m.

Oct. 28

Issues of Autism Workshop Series Understanding Asperger's from a Clinical and Sensory Perspective

Debra Sloane, College Internship Program
6:30–8 p.m., Scott Center for Autism Treatment Seminar Room, free
For information call extension 8104

Nov. 5

Humanities Lecture Series Why Go to the Moon: The Many Faces of Lunar Policy

Roger D. Launius, Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum
7 p.m., F.W. Olin Engineering Complex, free

Nov. 6–7

School of Psychology 2009 Autism Conference
The Power and Potential of Communication
7:30 a.m., Nov. 6, Gleason Performing Arts Center
8:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Nov. 7, Skurla Hall auditorium
For information call extension 6076 or 8104, or visit <http://411.fit.edu/autismconference>

Golden Anniversary Campaign Raises \$59.4 Million *Continued from page 1*

education and online learning; a \$1.5 million endowment to create the Farmer Scholars Program, given by Phillip W. Farmer.

Other gifts include funding to build facilities and create programs for the Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research, the Scott Center for Autism Treatment, the Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts and the Northrop Grumman Engineering and Science Student Design Showcase.

Antarctic Sea Exploration for Predatory Crabs Nets \$453,000 from NSF

Richard Aronson, professor and head of biological sciences, has received a \$453,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to look for predatory crabs in the largely unexplored Antarctic sea bottom in the Bellingshausen and Amundsen Seas. Climate change, warming the waters of Antarctica, is creating an environment for predatory crabs to return to an area they inhabited millions of years ago. Their return would disrupt Antarctica's primeval marine communities.



Richard Aronson

The funding will allow Aronson and his research team to use a Swedish icebreaker, the Oden, to inspect these areas. If the crab invasion succeeds, it will devastate Antarctica's spectacular fauna and fundamentally alter its ecological relationships. "Unless we can get control of ship traffic and greenhouse-gas emissions, climate change will ruin marine communities in Antarctica and make the world a sadder, duller place," said Aronson.

Transitions

Promotions: Diane Tudor, Alison Grammer, Human Resources; Kevin White, Facilities.

New Hires: Theresa Sexton, Margaret Harp, Louis Wolf, Gabriel Leon, Facilities; John Mims, Security; Wendy Wood, Facilities; Ryan Jones, Athletics; Debra Sloane, Counseling and Psychological Services; Andy Stanfield, Information Technology; Tim Hancock, Online Learning.



Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

Campus Observer is published by the Office of University Communications
Sr. Vice President for Advancement Kenneth Stackpoole
Associate Vice President for University Relations Wes Sumner
Editor Maya Oluseyi
Design and Layout Office of Creative Services
Photography Dean Stewart Photography, Lisa Rouede, Verna Layman

From the President's Desk



Anthony James Catanese

Although we don't have autumn leaves or football (yet) to remind us that it's fall at Florida Tech, we do have the United Way campaign to help put us in a seasonal mood. On Sept. 25 we officially kicked off the 2009 campaign, which runs through Nov. 9. By now, you should have received your donation packet in your office.

United Way of Brevard's 2009 goal is to raise \$6.7 million under the leadership of Campaign Chair Mark Mikolajczyk, president and publisher of *FLORIDA TODAY*.

The United Way came very close to that goal last year. We sincerely want to help make it happen this year and to meet or exceed our Florida Tech goal of \$47,000.

Here are some startling facts:

- Of the nearly 70,000 single moms in Brevard, 22.5 percent live below the federal poverty level.
- Last year, the South Brevard Sharing Center provided food, clothing and emergency assistance to more than 27,000 Brevard residents.
- Of the nearly 2,000 people homeless in our community, approximately 350 are homeless youth.
- Last year, the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation provided 311 Brevard families with more than 156,000 hours of adult daycare.

This is our annual opportunity to join with our greater community and show how much the Florida Tech family cares about making a positive difference in people's lives.

Please carefully consider the pledge forms you have received. Take the time to become more knowledgeable about how our local United Way helps our neighbors, families throughout Brevard, get back on their feet.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more information about our campaign in the coming days and weeks.

By the way, we'll conduct the annual end-of-campaign drawing for United Way participants on Nov. 16 at 1 p.m. in the Board of Trustees Dining Room in the Denius Student Center. See you there.